

Let's tear down some hydroelectric dams in my district and Mr. BENTZ' district; let's tear them down.

We are going to lose green power. We are doing it over the objections of the people who live there, who have objected by over 70 percent to removal of these dams, all for an unproven environmental benefit.

So enjoy even less electricity. Enjoy even less food grown in my district and Mr. BENTZ' district. Enjoy even more of the crisis that is facing us in rural California, rural America, and on our store shelves and in our electrical wires due to even more unfounded environmental rules being forced upon us to tear down perfectly good hydroelectric dams. Thanks one hell of a lot.

#### RECOGNIZING RETAIL SOLUTIONS GROUP

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Randy Whittington, Gary Foster, Angela Rogers, and Joey Haney of the Retail Solutions Group in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

I was proud to join them recently at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their fourth, and largest, warehouse.

In the last few years, Retail Solutions Group has grown from fewer than eight employees to now over 200. This is a magnificent accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, North Carolina remains a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, thanks to people such as Randy, Gary, Angela, and Joey.

Congratulations to Retail Solutions Group on this new and exciting chapter. I look forward to hearing more about the strides you will make in the days and months ahead.

#### AMERICA NEEDS A NEW COURSE

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, as we here in the House and our country come near the close of 2022, the United States has gone through the worst year on our record for illegal border crossings.

Meanwhile, we have a Homeland Security Secretary who tells us regularly that the border is secure. Just this last month, over 230,000 illegals have crossed that we know of.

Along with this, gasoline prices are over \$4 a gallon again, and the cost of Thanksgiving for most families will be over 20 percent what it was last year.

This has been a troubling year. America needs a new course. This House needs a new course, a new direction, and new priorities that strengthen America and Americans.

#### SPEAKER PELOSI'S FUTURE PLANS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, as we gather here, we stand on sacred ground, the Chamber of the United States House of Representatives, the heart of American democracy.

I will never forget the first time I saw the Capitol. It was on a cold January day, when I was 6 years old. My father, Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., was about to be sworn in for his fifth term in Congress representing our beloved hometown of Baltimore.

I was riding in the car with my brothers. They were thrilled and jumping up and down and saying to me: "Nancy, look, there's the Capitol." And every time I would say: "I don't see any capitals. Is it a capital A, a capital B, or a capital C?"

Finally, I saw it, a stunning white building with a magnificent dome. I believed then, as I believe today, this is the most beautiful building in the world because of what it represents. The Capitol is a temple of our democracy, of our Constitution, of our highest ideals.

On that day, I stood with my father on this floor as he took the sacred oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

All of us who have served in this House have taken the hallowed oath of office. It is the oath that stitches us together in a long and storied heritage. Colleagues who served before us are all our colleagues: colleagues like Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Shirley Chisholm, Patsy Mink, and our beloved John Lewis.

Personally, it binds me as a colleague to my father, a proud New Deal Congressman and one of the earliest Italian Americans to serve in Congress.

This is an oath we are duty-bound to keep, and it links us with the highest aspirations of the ages.

In this room, our colleagues across history have abolished slavery; granted women the right to vote; established Social Security and Medicare; offered a hand to the weak, care to the sick, education to the young, and hope to the many.

Indeed, it is here, under the gaze of our patriarch George Washington in the people's House that we have done the people's work.

My colleagues, I stand before you as Speaker of the House, as a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a devout Catholic, a proud Democrat, and a patriotic American, a citizen of the greatest republic in the history of the world, which President Lincoln called the last, best hope of Earth.

Indeed, in the words attributed to another of our colleagues, the legendary Daniel Webster: "Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution of your country and the government established under it. . . ."

"Miracles do not cluster. That which has happened but once in 6,000 years cannot be expected to happen often."

Indeed, American democracy is majestic, but it is fragile. Many of us here

have witnessed its fragility firsthand; tragically, in this Chamber. So democracy must be forever defended from forces that wish it harm.

Last week, the American people spoke, and their voices were raised in defense of liberty, of the rule of law, and of democracy itself.

With these elections, the people stood in the breach and repelled the assault on democracy. They resoundingly rejected violence and insurrection and in doing so, "gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

Now, we owe to the American people our very best to deliver on their faith, to forever reach for the more perfect union, the glorious horizon that our Founders promised.

The questions before us in this Congress and this moment are urgent; questions about the ideals that this House is charged by the Constitution to preserve and protect: "... establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Our posterity, our children. Babies born today will live into the next century, and our decisions will determine their future for generations to come.

While we will have our disagreements on policy, we must remain fully committed to our shared, fundamental mission: To hold strong to our most treasured democratic ideals, to cherish the spark of divinity in each and every one of us, and to always put our country first.

In their infinite wisdom, our Founders gave us their guidance: "e pluribus unum", "out of many, one."

They could not have imagined how large our country would become or how different we would be from one another, but they knew we had to be united as one.

We the people: One country, one destiny.

It has been with great pride that, in my 35 years in the House, I have seen this body grow more reflective of our great Nation, our beautiful Nation.

When I came to the Congress in 1987, there were 12 Democratic women. Now, there are over 90 and we want more.

The new members of our Democratic Caucus will be about 75 percent women, people of color, and LGBTQ. We have brought more voices to the decision-making table. When I entered leadership in 2002, there were eight of us. Today, there are 17 members of leadership.

When I first came to the floor at 6 years old, never would I have thought that some day I would go from home-maker to House Speaker. In fact, I never intended to run for public office.

Mommy and Daddy taught us through their example that public service is a noble calling and that we all have a responsibility to help others. In our family, my brother, Tommy, then became mayor of Baltimore also.

It has been my privilege to play a part in forging extraordinary progress

for the American people. I have enjoyed working with three Presidents, achieving historic investments in clean energy with President George Bush; transformative healthcare reform with President Barack Obama; and forging the future, from infrastructure to healthcare to climate action with President Joe Biden.

Now, we must move boldly into the future, grounded by the principles that have propelled us this far and open to fresh possibilities for the future.

Scripture teaches us that: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under Heaven."

My friends, no matter what title my colleagues have bestowed upon me—Speaker, Leader, Whip—there is no greater official honor for me than to stand on this floor and to speak for the people of San Francisco.

This I will continue to do as a Member of the House, speaking for the people of San Francisco, serving the great State of California, and defending our Constitution.

With great confidence in our caucus, I will not seek reelection to Democratic leadership in the next Congress.

For me, the hour has come for a new generation to lead the Democratic Caucus that I so deeply respect, and I am grateful that so many are ready and willing to shoulder this awesome responsibility.

Madam Speaker, standing here today, I am endlessly grateful for all of life's blessings.

For my Democratic colleagues, whose courage and commitment—with the support of your families—have made many of these accomplishments possible. That could not have been done without you.

For my dear husband, Paul, who has been my beloved partner in life and my pillar of support, thank you. We are all grateful for all of the prayers and well-wishes as he continues his recovery. Thank you so much.

For our darling children: Nancy Corrine, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul, and Alexandra; and our grandchildren: Alexandra and Madeleine; Liam, Sean and Ryan; Paul and Thomas; Bella and Octavio, they are the joys of our lives of whom we are so very, very proud, and they are a comfort to us at this time.

And for my brilliant, dedicated, and patriotic staff under the leadership of Terri McCullough, working together, the finest group of public servants the House has ever known, thank you all so much.

And, again, for those who have sent me here, for the people of San Francisco, for entrusting me with the high honor of being their voice in Congress.

In this continued work, I will strive to honor the call of the patron saint of our city, Saint Francis: "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace."

In this House, we begin each day with a prayer and a pledge to the flag. And every day I am in awe of the majestic miracle that is American democracy.

As we participate in the hallmark of our Republic—the peaceful, orderly transition from one Congress to the next—let us consider the words of, again, President Lincoln, spoken during one of America's darkest hours.

He called upon us to come together, to "swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

That, again, is the task at hand.

A new day is dawning on the horizon, and I look forward and always forward to the unfolding story of our Nation; a story of light and love, of patriotism and progress, of many becoming one, and always an unfinished mission to make the dreams of today the reality of tomorrow.

Thank you all. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our veterans and the United States of America. Thank you all so much.

□ 1245

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### FEMA IMPROVEMENT, REFORM, AND EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3092) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve the provision of certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3092

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act of 2022" or the "FIRE Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agency;

(2) the term "Agency" means the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(4) the term "emergency" means an emergency declared or determined to exist by the President under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191);

(5) the terms "Indian tribal government", "local government", and "State" have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122); and

(6) the term "major disaster" means a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

#### SEC. 3. REPORT ON RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a report regarding the use of relocation assistance under sections 203, 404, and 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133, 5170c, 5172) for wildfire risk to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Any information on relocation projects that have been carried out due to fire risks or denied by the Agency, including the number and value of projects either carried out or denied.

(2) A discussion of the possible benefits or disadvantages of providing relocation assistance that may reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of loss due to wildfires.

(3) A discussion of how the Agency may optimize relocation assistance when entire States or geographic areas are considered subject to a fire risk.

(4) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures are more cost-effective than relocation assistance when the applicant is applying to move from a high-risk to a medium-risk or low-risk area with respect to wildfires.

(5) An analysis of the need for the Federal Government to produce wildfire maps that identify high-risk, moderate-risk, and low-risk wildfire zones.

(6) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures promote greater resilience to wildfires when compared to relocation or, if additional data is required in order to carry out such an analysis, a discussion of the additional data required.

(7) A discussion of the ability of States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to demonstrate fire risk, and whether the level of this ability impacts the ability of States, local governments, or Indian tribal governments to access relocation assistance, including an assessment of existing fire mapping products and capabilities and recommendations on redressing any gaps in the ability of the Agency to assist States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments in demonstrating fire risk.

(8) An evaluation of—

(A) the scope of the data available to the Agency regarding historical wildfire losses;

(B) how such data is utilized in benefit-cost analysis determinations by the Agency;

(C) what additional data, if any, may be pertinent to such determinations; and

(D) what, if any, alternative methods may be relevant to the determination of cost effectiveness.

(9) A discussion of the extent to which the decision process for relocation assistance appropriately considers the change in future risks for wildfires due to a changing climate.

(10) An analysis of whether statutes and regulations regarding relocation assistance by the Agency present barriers for States, local governments, or Indian tribal governments trying to access funding to reduce wildfire risk.